



Good News from Parks and Recreation February 2013

Parks and Recreation website: <http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/index.cfm>

Trail and Bikeway Plan - http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/trail_bikeway_master_plan.cfm

Parks and Recreation Master Plan - http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/master_plan.cfm

DNR 10/25 Parks and Trails Legacy Plan - <http://www.legacy.leg.mn/funds/parks-trails-fund/plan>

Sign up for all **Parks and Recreation press releases** and other City announcements at <http://www.duluthmn.gov/> - click the yellow button on the left that says "Subscribe via E-mail".

Like us on Facebook: see the blue Facebook icon on our website:
<http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/> or find us on Facebook at DuluthParksMN

We are in the process of adding a Parks Twitter account to the ways we communicate with the public. The City already has a Twitter account – sign up at <http://www.duluthmn.gov/>

Recreation and Special Events

**For updated information on cross country ski trail conditions,
call the City's Trails Hotline at 730-4321.**

The cross country ski trails are in excellent condition. Spring skiing should be very good.

Downhill Skiing

Located in the heart of Duluth at 1800 East Skyline Parkway, Chester Bowl Ski Hill offers a wide variety of downhill skiing experiences. Daily lift tickets for all ages are \$5.25/per day. Besides being affordable, Chester Bowl is a great place to learn how to downhill ski for people of all ages. For more information go to <http://www.chesterbowl.org>

Parks and Recreation Heritage Skating

The Parks and Recreation sponsored skating sessions will be held from 6:30-8:00 PM every Wednesday until the end of May. The Heritage Sports Center is located at 120 South 30th Avenue West. These sessions are **free** and open to the public for pleasure skating. Please bring your own skates. We also have special skating opportunities on Early Release School Days.

Play Gym at Duluth Heights

Unstructured, free, rain or shine playtime for preschoolers. There has been a total of 14 new families and one early childhood/ special needs teacher that has made use of the Play Gym at Duluth Heights in December and January. It has been suggested that a second morning be added, though a parent volunteer who can work with us needs to be found.

Play Gym is held every Wednesday from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon at the Duluth Heights Community Recreation Center, 33 Mulberry St. For more information, call 730-4322.

Ice Rink Update

All ice rinks in the City are in excellent shape due to the hard work of Community Organizations, Sports groups, and City of Duluth employees--- because of this, the rink at Bayfront has had the highest attendance in 3 years, and has the added activities of Friday night bonfires, snow shoes, cross country skis, a small sliding hill, and periodic art projects.

New Kid Centered Rental Activity Fee Established

Parks and Recreation's first, official rental using the new "kid-centered activity" rental fee of \$50/4-hour time slot will be taking place at the end of the month. A special information pamphlet that details the types of activities that qualify, as well as the special equipment and opportunities that exist at Duluth Heights for these kinds of things, will be published soon.

New Skates Ordered for Parks and Recreation Heritage Skating Program

A significant number of new skates will be ordered for the Heritage Center Skating Program. More will be made available at Bayfront, as well.

Senior Billiard Tournament

The 39th Annual City of Duluth Senior Eight-Ball Pocket Billiard Tournament started on Monday, February 4. All men and women participants age 55 and over were invited to play in this popular tournament sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Division. Round robin play will be until March 1, with division play-offs March 4-5, and finals on March 6, all at the Lincoln Park Center, 2014 West 3rd Street.

Final Parks and Recreation DECC Skating Party Sunday, February 24th

Make plans now to head down to the DECC Arena on Sunday, February 24th for the final Parks and Recreation skating party. The skating party will be held in the Arena from 3:00-5:00 PM. This is a great FREE event for families. Music will be provided by Shelly's Mobile Music Machine. There will be free cookies and door prizes for the kids.

DECC concessions will also be open during this time period. All skating parties are free and open to all ages. Kids under 10 must be accompanied by an adult. Participants need to bring their own skates.

Parks and Recreation Winter Break Skating Schedule for Bayfront Park and the Heritage Sports Center

The Parks and Recreation winter break skating sessions at the Heritage Sports Center will be held daily from 2:00-4:00 PM from February 18-22. The Heritage Sports Center is located at 120 South 30th Avenue West.

These sessions are free and open to all ages for pleasure skating.

Monday, February 18 @ 2:00-4:00 PM

Tuesday, February 19 @ 2:00-4:00PM

Wednesday, February 20 @ 2:00-4:00 PM

Thursday, February 21 @ 2:00-4:00 PM

Friday, February 22 @ 2:00-4:00 PM

Winter break skating is also available next week at Bayfront Park. The Bayfront Park skating rink will be open from 1:00-8:00 PM Monday, February 18 through Friday, February 22nd.

Saturday's hours are 1:00-8:00 PM and Sunday 1:00-5:00 PM.

Administration

Park Maintenance Staff Begins Pruning of City Trees

Tree pruning season is upon us again, and the friendly faces of our parks maintenance staff can be seen pruning our boulevard trees all around the city. The goal of pruning public trees is to make them as safe and healthy as possible and to minimize conflicts with pedestrian and vehicle traffic, road signs, and buildings. Therefore, pruning is both beneficial and necessary. City staff strives to create clearance of 14 feet over the street and 10 feet over the sidewalk. Any dead or diseased limbs are also removed. This prevents them from falling and causing damage or injury, and it also reduces the risk of decay or disease entering the rest of the tree. Structural defects are also corrected whenever possible and hazardous trees are evaluated for removal. Finally, branches are pruned back from buildings and away from overhead utility lines. There are many things to evaluate before beginning pruning of each tree. Location, surrounding environment, the current condition of the tree, size of the tree, and the species are all taken into consideration before any branch is pruned. Every tree is unique, and each one will have a different course of action when it comes to pruning. Each and every cut made is deliberate and well thought-out.

Our City is fortunate to have a staff of skilled professionals, many of whom are DNR certified Tree Inspectors and International Society of Arboriculture certified Arborists that leave our trees safer and more beautiful.

\$86,000 Available to the Community in Parks Fund Neighborhood Grants

The City will make \$86,000 available as part of the Parks Fund to support projects and initiatives which will enhance and improve city parks and recreation. The Neighborhood Grant program is designed to provide direct support for community groups and organizations to add value in our City parks. The maximum grant to be awarded is \$5,000 per request. The City is partnering with the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation on this granting program. Grant applications are due on April 1, 2013. To download the application go to the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation

<http://www.dsacommunityfoundation.com/apply-for-a-grant#.UL-GLoNZXSg>

Proposals will be reviewed by a committee with recommendations for funding presented to the Parks Commission then for final approval from the City Council.

Parks Fund Neighborhood Grant Projects must:

- Take place entirely or primarily on existing recognized units of Duluth's parks, recreation, and trails system;
- Support the mission of Duluth's Parks and Recreation Division to fulfill the essential recreational, educational, cultural, and environmental needs that create a dynamic community; and
- Encourage both financial and volunteer efforts.

Priority is given to projects that support one or more of the following key elements of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan:

- Improve the quality of existing parks (especially neighborhood parks),
- Focus on connecting the community through trails and bikeways,
- Have fewer, but higher quality recreation buildings,
- Enhance stewardship of natural resources,
- Expand partnerships with schools for community recreation and gathering, and
- Increase use and recognition of volunteers and volunteer groups.
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Public asked to comment on Duluth Traverse Mountain Bike Trail System Environmental Assessment Worksheet

The City of Duluth is accepting public comments during a 30-day public review period from February 6 to March 7, 2013, on an environmental assessment worksheet (EAW) that was prepared for the Duluth Traverse Mountain Bike Trail System.

The City of Duluth in partnership with COGGS (Cyclists of the Gitchee Gumme Shores) is proposing to construct Phase 1 of the Duluth Traverse, a sustainable multi-use natural-surface single-track trail system purpose built for mountain biking but suitable for many human powered recreational users which will stretch across Duluth along the ridgeline. The proposed trail will be built to International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) sustainable trail guidelines to minimize maintenance and erosion problems.

A copy of the EAW is available online at www.duluthmn.gov/planning. Additional copies of the EAW are available for public review at:

- Duluth Public Library, 520 West Superior Street, Duluth
- Duluth Parks and Recreation Office, 411 West First Street, Ground Floor of City Hall, Duluth
- Duluth Planning Office, 411 West First Street, Room 208, Duluth

The EAW will be published in the February 6, 2013 EQB Monitor. Written comments must be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 7, to the attention of Charles Froseth, Land Use Supervisor, 411 West First Street, Room 208, Duluth MN 55802. Written comments will be shared with the Planning Commission at their March 12, 2013, Planning Commission meeting. Electronic or email comments may be sent to cfroseth@duluthmn.gov with "Duluth Traverse EAW" in the subject line. If submitting comments electronically, include name and mailing address.